Cabinet during his stay in India. He also had discussions with leaders of the Indian business community. The main issues discussed included all aspects of bilateral relations, developments in Europe, in the South-Asian region and the impact on the international situation after the end of the Cold War and related developments.

The exchanges of views also covered bilateral and multilateral economic, commercial, scientific and technical cooperation.

Discussions held between the Prime Minister of Britain and British officials and business leaders who accompanied him on the one hand and their counterparts in India on the other, have given an impetus to mutually beneficial Indo-British economic, cultural and scientific relations. The prospects are positive.

A revised double-taxation agreement between India and the United Kingdom was signed during Prime Minister John Major's visit. Various Departments of the Government of India are taking steps for expeditious implementation of the provisions of this agreement as well as the other decisions taken during these discussions.

Development of Shipping Industry

*130. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what according to the study, if any, is the percentage of country's shipping trade tonnage in comparison to the world average during 1992 and what is the share of Indian shipping in overseas trade in terms of volume during 1992 as against the year 1991;

(b) what is the reason for decline, if any, in the share of Indian shipping in overseas trade stating the percentage of fluctuation during the last three years; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government for the development of viable shipping industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) According to the statistical tables of Lloyd's register as on 1.7.1992, the world tonnage is 444.3 million GRT and Indian tonnage is 6.457 million GRT which represents 1.45 percentage of world tonnage. The overses sea borne trade of India during the year 1991-92 was 110.07 million tonnes and the share of Indian lines in it was 39.53 million tonnes representing 35.9% as against 35.5% in 1990-91.

(b) The share of Indian lines has been almost static for the last three years as is evident from the following table:

(In million tonnes)

Year	Total trade	Share of foreign lines	Share of Indian lines	Percentage of Indian lines
1989-90	106.76	68.55	38.21	35.79
1990-91	109.35	70.49	38.86	35.50
1991-92	110.07	70.54	39.53	35.90

(c) The Government have taken the following measures to assist the Indian shipping industry:—

1. Automatic approval is now given for:
   (i) Acquisition of all categories of ships except crude tankers and OSVs, by Private Shipping Companies.
   (ii) Sale of ships for further trading/scrapping to a company within India or abroad.
   (iii) Acquisition of ship from an Indian shipyeard; and
   (iv) Acquisition for replacement tonnage;
2. Shipping companies have been allowed to retain sale proceeds of their ships and utilise them for fresh acquisition.

3. Freedom to time charter out Indian ships to foreign shipping companies.

4. Acquisition of vessels through bare boat charter-cum-demise method.

5. Quarterly Block Allocation Scheme for repair of ships has been dispensed with entirely and Reserve Bank of India releases foreign exchange for ship repair/dry docking and spares for imported capital goods without any value limit.

6. Freight charges on account of movement of fertilizer and petroleum products are now allowed to be paid in convertible currency on par with other commodities.

Upgradatioin of Cochin Shipyard

*131. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cochin Shipyard has taken up only ship repair because non-remunerative prices were offered for ship building;

(b) whether railway wagon building or similar works on a regular basis are under consideration for optimum utilisation of Shipyard capacity; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to upgrade the technique and technology of the Yard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Due to lack of orders and non-remunerative prices of ships resulting in sizeable cost price gap, the Cochin Shipyard Limited has stepped up the ship repair activities so as to utilize its available capacity and manpower.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Renewal of free railway passes to freedom fighters

*132. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI N.E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the renewal of freedom fighters' free railway passes has been suspended in Vijayawada and in all other divisions of South Central Railway for the last few weeks; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to make the passes available in these divisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Violation of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

*133. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position in regard to violation of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by over 38 large and medium industrial units in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to issue prosecution notices to these units by January 31, 1993; and

(c) if so, whether the notices have since been issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board, there are 25 defaulting units, which have not taken the required steps to instal pollution control devices within the given time to the satisfaction of the State Pollution Control Boards.